

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

**Policy Council Minutes
January 23, 2002**

Members/Representatives Present:

- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Rudy Lopez, Director, Department of Behavioral Health
- Judge Garza, Juvenile Court – Chairperson
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Karen Bell, District Attorney – Juvenile Division
- Eric Fryman, Department of Public Health
- Kathy Watkins, HSS Admin. Legislation and Research
- MaryLyn Clark, Director, Inland Regional Center
- Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
- Art McComb, Children's Fund
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Judy Steppins, SB County Library
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Joan Williams, Department of Public Health
- Diane Terrones, Children's System of Care
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health
- Julian Weaver, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- Gary Paytas, Probation Department
- Ray Wingerd, Probation Department
- Mel Rinewalt, Probation Department
- Bruce Davis, 3rd District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Burt Southard, 1st District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender's Office
- Charles Adams, Jr., Community Services Department
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Children's Services
- Andy Gruchy, Children's System of Care
- Yvonne Armstrong, Children's System of Care
- Cindy Blum, Children's System of Care
- Ruth Stringer, County Counsel
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Carol Anselmi and convened the meeting in the Citrus Room, Fifth Floor, County Government Center.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Carol Anselmi started the meeting and welcomed those present and self-Introductions were made. Judge Garza then joined the meeting.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

3.0 Approval of January 23, 2002 Minutes

Gary Paytas made a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2001. Paula Roby seconded the motion. There being no opposition, motion approved.

4.0 Information Items

4.1 Children's Fund Report

Rebecca Stafford reported the following items:

- 13th Celebration of giving received over 37,000 gifts for 20,000 at-risk children in this county.
- Children's Fund raised over a half million dollars in Christmas gifts for the at-risk children in this county this year.
- April 1st will be the kickoff downstairs for the Duck Race that will be held on April 27 at the Guasti Regional Park in conjunction with the Children's Network Child Abuse Prevention Campaign Family Celebration Picnic.
- Rebecca also passed around a calendar of events for this year.

4.2 Children's Network Annual Report Distribution

Kent Paxton mentioned that a draft resolution would be presented to the Board of Supervisors next month for April Child Abuse Prevention Month. Also, in April will be the Shine the Light Breakfast – you received a nomination form in your packet today.

Kent Paxton also made reference to the Children's Network Annual report you received today as well. Thanks for Susan Melanson for the work on this annual report and the good press report. Please let us know if you need more copies.

4.3 Group Home Needs Assessment

Kathy Watkins passed out a packet of information on Group Home Needs Assessment that covers the month of October. Kathy talked about the Needs Assessment Survey and the following details:

- Will collect data first from management reports.
- Collecting information from UC Berkley that are doing social services research – placements by other counties that track probation and DCS placements.
- Probation, Behavioral Health, and DCS line workers will be answering the survey based on their needs for difficult placements and treatment placements.
- Kathy passed out a sample of the survey questions and asked for any input by **January 31, 2002** before it is distributed. Kathy can be reached as well at **876-3955**.
- Judge Garza asked to have a copy as well, since the judges have problems with difficult placements as well.
- There was also some discussion that the Public Defender and DA's Office be included as well.
- Cindy Blum mentioned that Riverside County has a Group Home Development Specialist that provides feedback to line workers on a monthly basis.
- Cathy Cimbalo mentioned that DCS would be starting in the desert in April, a pilot program, Centralized Placement Unit. She stated that this unit would be the keeper of information on all available beds. The placement workers will be able to call this unit to find beds more quickly and lessen their frustration. Then eventually this pilot will go countywide.
- **Kathy Watkins was asked to come back to the April 2002 meeting and give the results of the survey.**
- Kathy Watkins was thanked for all her hard work.

5.0 Discussion/Action Items

- 5.1 Drowning Prevention Subcommittee
Discussion and action is requested to form a Drowning Prevention Subcommittee of the Children's Services Team

Claudia Spencer passed out a handout on the proposed San Bernardino County Drowning Prevention Network. This committee is being requested on behalf of the Children's Services Team, which Claudia is the chairperson.

Claudia discussed the number of deaths in children under the age of 17 usually under the age of 5 in unintentional deaths. The drowning was at swimming pools, lakes, and bathtubs. The drowning or near drowning occurred when the child was left unattended for various reasons. Claudia feels their needs to be a greater effort on water safety, not just the Safe Kids campaign from Loma Linda University Hospital. Claudia mentioned a Graduate Student and PHN, Joan Williams and Susan Melanson would chair this committee. It was mentioned that this committee will not duplicate the efforts of the Loma Linda University Safe Kids Campaign, it will be expanding.

This committee proposes to meet once a month with the various agencies involved listed on the handout. Julian Weaver motioned to go ahead and have this committee formed and active. Cathy Cimbalo seconded the motion.

5.2 CAPIT RFP

Discussion and action is requested to approve recommending to the Board of Supervisors the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment funds.

Cathy Cimbalo asked for approval to go to the Board of Supervisors for the CAPIT RFP to cover 3 years. Cathy sees the RFP to cover/focus on the following:

- Coverage of gaps in service delivery throughout the county.
- The need for more Family Resource Centers and Early Home Visitation Programs,
- The vendors of resources could come to the Family Resource Centers to provide their services.
- Cathy mentioned that all the Family Resource Centers would not be the same, they would be geared to the neighborhood they are located in.
- Cathy also mentioned the RFP for the Kinship Support Centers and the focus will be Family Resource Center based.
- Julian Weaver asked the question how much is the funding for these RFPs? Cathy responded she believed it to be \$1.2 million dollars. Cathy explained the amount is so large due to the census showing that 1/3 of the population of this county is under 18 and the large number of child abuse referrals.
- Julian Weaver mentioned that is already some resources at some of the Healthy Start sites. **Julian agreed to provide this information to Cathy.**
- For more information about the RFPs please contact HSS Contracts at (909) 388-0252.

- Gary Paytas made the motion to approve the recommendation for the CAPIT RFP. Motion was accepted.

5.3 CSOC MDT COORDINATOR

Discussion and action is requested to approve the creation of a Children's System of Care Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator under Children's Network.

Kent discussed the draft MOU in your packet developed by Paula Roby. Kent gave the following background of this position:

- The purpose of this MOU is to create a full-time position.
- Kent has been going out countywide in the County monthly since 1988 to Big Bear, Yucca Valley, Victorville, east valley, and west valley.
- Issues discussed are the impact on families – such as many of these children is one step away from placement.
- The goal is to prevent placements in conjunction with CSOC and do a better job of integrating services.
- Kent sees this position as a Social Services Practitioner from DCS that has child abuse and neglects knowledge can pull resources together – in the packet you will find a job description.
- Presently, Kent has been covering 200 to 300 in-depth discussions of cases a year, but thinks a full-time position will be able to cover many more cases.
- This position could also be a liaison to the IPC (Interagency Placement Committee).
- This position could also help with controlling the high cost of some placements by doing earlier intervention.
- This position will also be used to do training countywide.
- Kent also mentioned you would see in your packet a signature page to make this MOU official.
- The motion to approve was made by Claudia Spencer. Cathy Cimbalo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

5.4 IPC recommendation

Interagency Placement Committee is recommending a Letter of Support to DSS Rate Setting for the Credence Home For Boys. Discussion and Action as requested to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Kent mentioned that there is a handout in your packet that has a full description of this proposed facility. Don Smith the Director gave the following background:

- Don has 24 years experience working with treatment services.
- This new group home is proposed at an already existing site in Hesperia.
- This group home will be level 12.
- Don stated he has excellent resources and staff.
- It will be a 17-bed facility for boys from the age of 11 to 17.
- The beds will be for 300 and 600 children.
- Don stated he is not asking for contract from the county to have all the 17 beds filled.
- The question was raised how does this facility differ from Turning Point a 10 bed facility in Apple Valley for boys aged 15 to 17 with drug abuse and emotional problems?
- Don stated Credence would be taking care of adolescent boys at a younger age with a family therapy and group therapy model.
- There was some discussion about more need for substance abuse programs for boys.
- Andy Gruchy mentioned that the IPC has seen difficulty in trying to find placements for delinquents who have substance abuse problems or serious mental health problems.
- It was mentioned when VisionQuest, comes on line Probation should have enough beds.
- It was mentioned that Probation reduced their number of placements from 500 to 370 to 380.
- It was also mentioned that Probation is seriously looking at putting any beds on hold, due to the current lower need of beds now.
- Cathy Cimbalo also mentioned that DCS could not guarantee to fill the 17 beds with children.
- Don Smith also referred all to the packet of the support letters he has already received.
- Don also mentioned that there are contract for a psychiatrist to come out twice a month for each child, social work services contract, assessment services contract, and education assessments.
- The recommendation was either to recommend a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors or a letter of denial.
- The motion was made to approve recommendation by Rudy Lopez. Karen Bell seconded the motion.
- The members who could vote had a rollcall with the following results: 4 in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 in abstention.

Kent will carry forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support.

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6.0 Other

7.0 Public Comment

8.0 Adjournment
Next Meeting: February 27, 2002